MARVEL

654

BIG TIME

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

Slott
Caselli
Garcia

PLUS:
The debut
of the All-New
VENOM

delgado

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HORIZON

DAILY BUGLE

OLD NEWS

Spider-Slayer swears vengeance on Mayor Jameson for the death of his father! (more)

NEW NEWS

New Avengers help their teammate Spidey to save the Mayor's motorcade! (more)

EVOLUTION

Mac Gargan is back in the Scorpion suit and upgraded with his own version of Spider-Sense! (more)

EDITORIAL

Daily Bugle Attacked by Bugs! (more)

BEAUTY

SoHo Spa Swarmed! (more)

SCIENCE & SUSPICIONS

Peter Parker rushed back to Horizon Labs to build a device that could disrupt the spider-sense of the Spider-Slayer's minions. But he was confronted by his boss, Max Modell who believes there may be a connection between Peter Parker and Spider-Man…(more)

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Apogee 1.

HORIZON LABS' ORBITAL SPACE PLATFORM.

VERTEX TO HORIZON ORBITAL!

INITIATING DOCKING PROCEDURE IN T-MINUS TEN!

COPY THAT. YOU ARE CLEARED FOR DOCK, VERTEX.

AND A *WELCOME SIGHT*, COLONEL JAMESON.

LOOKED UP *HERE* LIKE YOU MIGHT NOT *MAKE* IT.

THEN YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW IT LOOKED FROM THE *FLIGHT DECK.*

IF IT WEREN'T FOR SPIDER-MAN, THE *SCORPION* WOULD HAVE TORN *VERTEX* TO PIECES.

THAT NUTCASE *SMYTHE* HAS SENT AN *ARMY* OF INSECT-KILLERS AGAINST MY DAD'S FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

I NEED YOU TO FUEL UP THIS BIRD *STAT* SO I CAN GET BACK TO EARTH AND *HELP* HIM--

TEKA

TEKA TEKA

'FRAID THAT'S A *NO-GO*, COLONEL.

NO, THAT WOULD BE AN *ORDER--*

NO, YOU GOT HEAVY DAMAGE TO THE SEAL OF VERTEX'S STARBOARD HATCH. SURE IT HAPPENED DURING THE BUG-FIGHT.

WE DON'T SPEND THE NEXT TWELVE HOURS *FIXING* IT, YOU'LL BLOW UP LIKE A *SPACE PIÑATA* ON REENTRY.

GREAT.

THEN THEIR ONLY *HOPE* IS...

Horizon Labs.
SOUTH STREET SEAPORT.
...SPIDER-MAN, PETER.
I KNOW ABOUT YOU AND HIM.
WAIT, MAX--IS THIS LIKE THAT "KEVIN BACON GAME?"
"PETER PARKER TOOK PICTURES FOR THE DAILY BUGLE. SPIDER-MAN WAS IN PICTURES FOR THE DAILY BUGLE"-- SEE, I'M LINKED IN *TWO*...
NO NEED TO DISSEMBLE, MY BOY. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO SHARE YOUR SECRET WITH ANYONE.
TWICE NOW I'VE WITNESSED YOU DISAPPEAR AS SOON AS SPIDER-MAN APPEARED TO BATTLE SUPER VILLAINS--
--WHICH LEADS ME TO THE *ONLY* LOGICAL CONCLUSION:
ASM #649 & 653-- STATISTICAL STEVE
SPIDER-MAN HIRES *YOU* TO BUILD HIS WEAPONRY AND TECH!
AFTER ALL, IT STRAINS *CREDULITY* TO THINK *ONE MAN* COULD POSSESS *BOTH* AMAZING SPIDER-POWERS...
...*AND* THE SCIENTIFIC ACUMEN TO INVENT DEVICES LIKE HIS *WEB-SHOOTERS!*
YOU...YOU *GOT ME*, MAX.
FRANKLY...
...I'M RELIEVED I FINALLY HAVE SOMEBODY TO *CONFIDE* IN.
AND I'D BE HAPPY TO REGALE YOU WITH WAR STORIES FROM THE SUPER-TRENCHES...
...BUT I'M KINDA UNDER THE *GUN* NOW. SPIDEY'S ASKED ME TO WHIP UP SOMETHING TO INTERFERE WITH THE ANIMAL-INSTICT SENSES OF SMYTHE'S *SLAYER-SWARM*--
I SEE. TIME IS OF THE *ESSENCE*, THEN.
SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO REMOVE THIS REDUNDANT CIRCUIT TO MAKE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOUR NEUROWAVE GENERATOR AND TRANSMITTER MORE *EFFICIENT*.

MAX... THANK YOU. I--

IT'S NOTHING, MY BOY.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD POINT OUT THE RESTRICTIONS IN YOUR CONTRACT AGAINST *MOON-LIGHTING*...

...BUT SPIDER-MAN-- WITH YOUR HELP-- SAVED HORIZON LABS FROM THE ***HOBGOBLIN***. THE LEAST I CAN DO IS LOOK THE OTHER WAY.

I CERTAINLY HOPE YOU FULLY INFORM HIM OF THE RISKS HE'S TAKING IN USING THAT DEVICE.

THE ***BIO-ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PULSE*** IT GENERATES WILL NOT ONLY DEVASTATE THE SIXTH SENSES OF SPIDER-MAN'S ENEMIES...

...BUT IF HE'S WITHIN THE ***BLAST RADIUS*** WHEN IT ***DETONATES***...

...IT WILL PLAY HAVOC ON ANY ENHANCED SENSES ***HE*** POSSESSES AS WELL.

WOW--BUSTING OUT THE ***MAD SCIENCE*** SIDE BY SIDE WITH THREE-TIME NOBEL LAUREATE MAX MODELL!

HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY NERD, PETEY PARKER, WOULD HAVE LAUGHED IN MY FACE IF I TOLD HIM THAT WAS IN OUR FUTURE.

AND MAX IS A SPIDEY FAN TO BOOT!

BUT I GOT NO TIME TO ***GLOAT***--NOT WHILE AUNT MAY AND MARLA JAMESON HAVE THE SLAYER-SWARM BREATHING DOWN THEIR NECKS.

SO I HAVE TO PLANT MY INSECT-SENSE-FRYER THEN DETONATE IT ***REMOTELY*** WITH THIS THING SO AS TO NOT GET HOISTED ON MY OWN PETARD.

BEN! BEN GRIMM, COME IN! IT'S SPIDEY!

THE CAVALRY IS ON ITS WAY!

Soho Spa.

YIPPADEE-DOO.

REVENGE OF THE SPIDER-SLAYER

PART THREE: SELF-INFLICTED WOUNDS

COULDJA TELL 'EM TO BRING SOME *ASPIRIN?* MOCKINGBIRD'S *DOWN--*

→NNNFFF!←

--AND THE PHRASE *"CLOBBERIN' TIME"* IS *S'POSED* TO REFER TO PEOPLE WHO AIN'T *ME!*

OH, NO-- MR. GRIMM LOOKS LIKE HE'S ON HIS LAST LEGS, MARLA!

I SEE THAT, MAY...

...SO PERHAPS I CAN USE MY *OWN* SPIDER-SLAYER KNOWLEDGE TO HELP HIM...

WHY... WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?

OH--I GUESS I NEVER *TOLD* YOU. I *MET* JONAH WHEN HE HIRED ME TO DEVELOP A NEW LINE OF SLAYER 'BOTS...

...AND IF I CAN SALVAGE SOME TECH FROM THIS AUTOMATED MANDROID, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO COUNTERACT THE LATEST MODEL!

ASM #167--SW

Holland Tunnel, New Jersey Side.

THE MAYOR GET AWAY, LUKE?

THAT HE DID, 'FIST.

NOW WE JUST GOTTA SEE WHO'S GONNA SAVE *US*.

NNNNGH...

DAD! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

ONE OF THOSE THINGS WING YOU?

IT'S... *NOTHING*, JONAH. WE NEED TO GET... TO MAY AND MARLA...

"ENCRYPTED...?"

BRRR BRRR--

GLORY, THIS IS SPIDER-MAN.

WHA--HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER?

DON'T YOU HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW?

JONAH'S PROBABLY TRYING TO BUTT HIS MUSTACHE IN WHERE IT'S NOT NEEDED, BUT I NEED YOU TO GET HIM AS *FAR* FROM THE CENTER OF THE CITY AS POSSIBLE--TO A *SAFE HOUSE*, OR--

THIS IS MY FAMILY, YOU SNOT-NOSED GLORY HOUND SO IT'S MY CHOICE!

YOU! GET TO THE *SPA* WHERE MY WIFE AND STEP-MOTHER ARE AT-- *IGNORE EVERY LIGHT!*

WORDS I SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE WAITING TO HEAR, YOUR HONOR.

THE AVENGERS AREN'T ABLE TO KEEP THE SWARM AT BAY--THESE THINGS DODGE EVERY BLOW!

I NEED YOU TO EVACUATE WITH THE REST OF THE STAFF! GO!

NORMALLY I'D ARGUE YOU'RE MAKING ME MISS THE BIGGEST STORY OF THE YEAR, ROBBIE--

The Daily Bugle.

--BUT I KINDA FEEL LIKE I NEED SOME *OBJECTIVE DISTANCE* FOR THIS ONE!

LIKE FROM *ACROSS THE STREET!*

I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU, NORAH!

FORGET IT, POP--I'M NOT LEAVING YOU!

TOUCHING.

KRRRKKK--

KRREEEEEEE

WH--

WHATTAYA KNOW. IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE ROBERTSONS...

...THE DAILY BUGLE *IS* IN THEIR BLOOD!

HA HA HA!

PHIL! WHERE'S RANDY?

I TRIED TO GET HIM TO COME WITH US, BUT HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT STICKING WITH HIS DAD--

--THEN PART OF THE CEILING *COLLAPSED!* WE GOT SEPARATED!

OH MY GOD! DID YOU SEE HIM AFTER? WAS HE ALL RIGHT?

I'M SORRY, NORAH. I DON'T KNOW IF HE MADE IT...

...BUT IF HE *DID*, THE HOBGOBLIN WILL BE SURE TO TRY, TRY AGAIN! **HA HA!**

RANDY! MY--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YOU'VE GOTTA *TRY*, SON! THESE THINGS WON'T STOP ATTACKING UNTIL THEY'VE CLEARED THIS PLACE OF--

NO, I'M REALLY KINDA NOT, DAD!!

I CAN'T-- I CAN'T MOVE MY *LEGS*--

...JONAH'S...

BEST...

...FRIEND...

THE SLAYER-SWARM HAS CONCENTRATED ITS ATTACKS ON THE JERSEY SIDE OF THE HOLLAND TUNNEL, THE DAILY BUGLE, AND THAT DAY SPA IN SOHO...

...AND THE *FLATIRON BUILDING* IS *EQUIDISTANT* FROM ALL THREE LOCATIONS.

I'LL DUMP THIS DEVICE OFF *HERE*... THEN SWING OUTSIDE ITS AREA OF EFFECT BEFORE YOU CAN SAY...

...*"HOLY TRIANGULATION"*...

AH. RIGHT...

QUICK NOTE: THAT'D ALSO MAKE THIS THE *PERFECT* SPOT...

...TO *COORDINATE* ALL THE ATTACKS. HI, SMYTHE. HOW'S IT GOIN'?

THERE HE IS, GARGAN.

BEFORE YOUR MISSION MERELY WAS TO STALL HIM.

NOW, KINDLY TEAR OUT HIS BEATING HEART.

AND SHOW IT TO HIM.

HIYA, BUG!

YA MISS ME?

SURE DID. I MEAN IT'S LITERALLY BEEN MINUTES SINCE I'VE MET A NEW SCORPION.

OH, AND WE'RE NOT ON A ROCKET ANYMORE. YOU CAN STOP SHOUTING.

Soho.

I STUDIED SMYTHE'S TECHNOLOGY LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW HIS POWER CELLS RUN ON A MICROWAVE FREQUENCY...

BWEEEPP

...THAT REALLY, REALLY HATES *THIS* ONE.

SKRRR

The Daily Bugle.

MS. MARVEL! POWER WOMAN!

I KNOW HOW TO GET THE SLAYER-SWARM OUT OF HERE!

YOU EDITING MY *FIGHTING STYLE* NOW TOO, BOSS?

THEY'RE NOT AFTER THE BUGLE, JESSICA--THEY'RE AFTER *ME!*

TAKE ME *AWAY* FROM HERE, AND THEY'LL--

--FOLLOOOOOO

WHAT? I THOUGHT THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED.

IT *IS*--I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D *WARN* ME BEFORE DOING IT--

I'M GONNA CLOSE MY EYES NOW.

The Holland Tunnel.

AT LAST! WE'VE LEFT SMYTHE'S CRAZIES IN THE STATE WHERE THEY *BELONG*...

...NEW JERSEY...

YOU WON'T GET AWAY THAT EASILY, JAMESON!

SKERROOWW SKERROOWW

I AM EVERYWHERE YOU ARE!

JUST LIKE YOUR SINS!

AND I VISIT THE SON'S ON THE FATHER!

The Flatiron Building.

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO MUCH *SMARTER* THAN ME, DON'T'CHA, BUG?

SKRAASH

ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT I'VE USED *MOUTHWASH* SMARTER THAN YOU.

IZZAT SO?

WELL I GOT BRAINS ENOUGH TO SEE YOU'VE SWIPED SOME KINDA *WEAPON* FROM YOUR AVENGERS BUDDIES...

SKRRAAAAASH

...AND THAT NEW DOOHICKEY ON YOUR *WRIST* IS HOW YOU CONTROL IT, AM I *RIGHT?*

No!!

HAH! WHO'S THE GENIUS NOW?!

C'MERE AND GET YOUR MEDICINE!

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE AT THE EPICENTER OF THE BIOELECTRIC-MAGNETIC PULSE WHEN IT WENT OFF--

--BUT I HAVE *NO CHOICE* NOW!

I *CAN'T* DETONATE IT REMOTELY, SO THERE'S NO POINT IN *WAITING!*

THIS IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE AUNT MAY, MARLA, ROBBIE AND THE OTHERS!

I *CAN'T* WORRY ABOUT MYSELF NOW!

EVEN IF I RISK DISRUPTING MY OWN--

EEEEEYYYYAAAAAGGGHHH

WHAT? DRAGONFLIERS, WHAT'S--

NNNYYYYEEEEGGGHHHH...

YOU...

...IDIOT!

FEELS LIKE YOU COOKED THE INSIDE OF MY BRAIN!!

AND YOU DID THE SAME THING TO YOURSELF!

HELL'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

SIMPLE... SCORPY...

DOESN'T MATTER...IF *I* GO DOWN...

...SO LONG AS YOU GO WITH ME!

I TALK A GOOD GAME... BUT...

...OOOOHHHH...

...PAIN SENSES... TINGLING...

HERE'S HOPING THAT WORKED...

...AND THAT EVERYONE'S ALL RIGHT.

MAY!

JAY!

MARLA!

JONAH!

CAROL!

BEN.

HUG?

MAYBE LATER.

DANG. COULD USE ONE.

WEBS! BREAK OUT THE CIGARS!

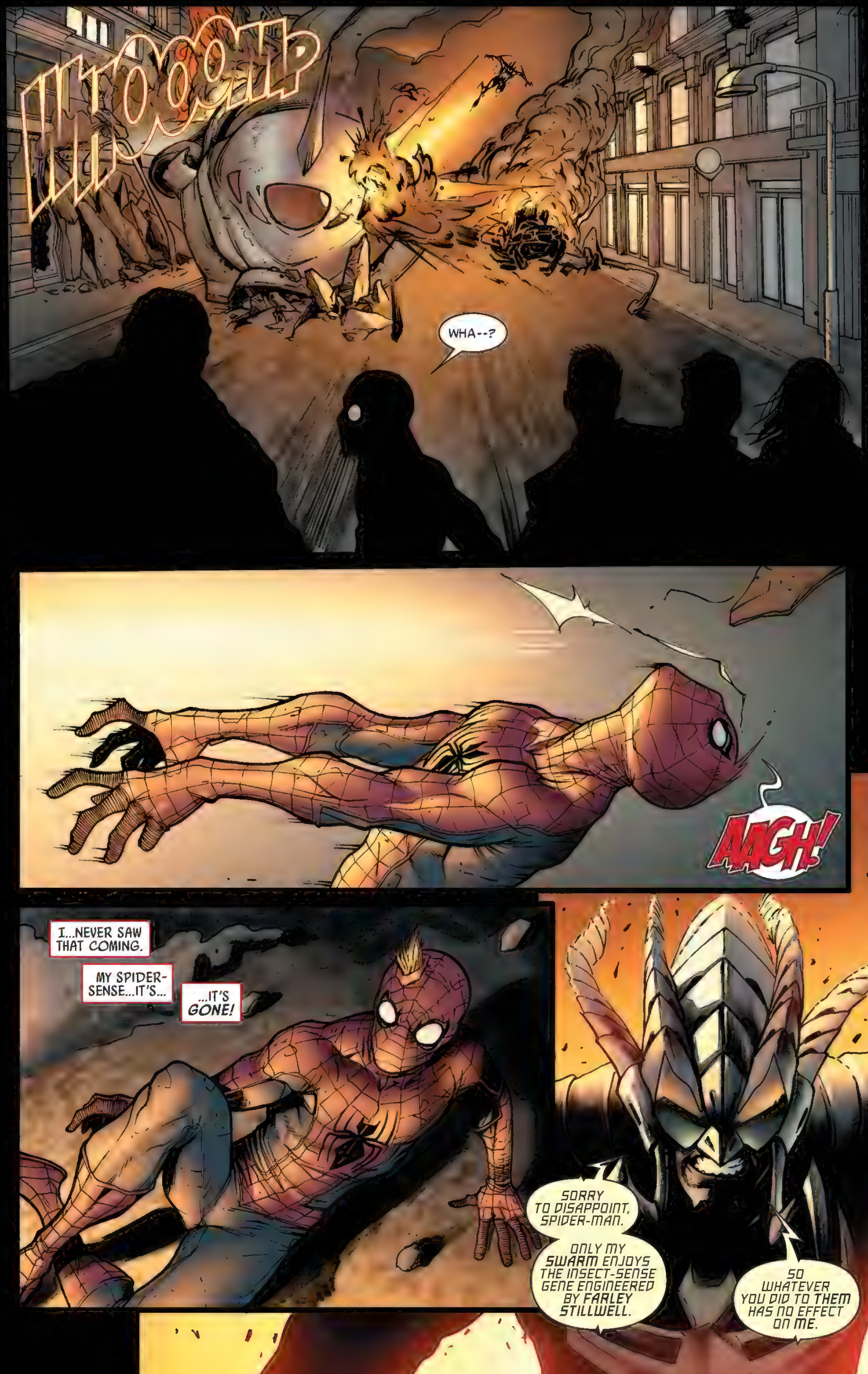
HAPPY ENDINGS ALL AROUND. THE MAYOR'S FAMILY'S SAVED--

--NOT TO MENTION YOUR AUNT--

--AND JUST IN *TIME*. I KNOW IT'S HARD TO TELL, BUT I'M COVERED IN *BRIGHT ORANGE* BRUISES.

OW. RIGHT THERE WITH YOU, BENJAMINO.

AFTER THIS, I'M CRAWLIN' INTO BED AND GOIN' TO SLEEP FOR TWO--


WHOOSH
WHA--?
AAGH!
I...NEVER SAW THAT COMING.
MY SPIDER-SENSE...IT'S...
...IT'S GONE!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT, SPIDER-MAN.
ONLY MY SWARM ENJOYS THE INSECT-SENSE GENE ENGINEERED BY FARLEY STILLWELL.
SO WHATEVER YOU DID TO THEM HAS NO EFFECT ON ME.

WHAKK

WHUDDD

MY CYBERNETIC ENHANCEMENTS ARE ALL I NEED!

KRAKAK

MAY! LOOK OUT!

LOOK...

CAN'T...SPOTS SWARMING...

DEBRIS...GAVE ME *CONCUSSION*...

I WAS GOING TO LEAVE YOU A **LONG** LIFE WITH THE DEATHS OF YOUR LOVED ONES ON YOUR HANDS, JAMESON.

BUT YOU **KNOW**, NOW THAT I'M **HERE**...

JONAH!

AAAGGHH!

MARLA!

ENOUGH!

ZUPAK

HOLD ON, HONEY! JUST HOLD ON!

I'LL HAVE A DOCTOR HERE RIGHT AWAY. THE *BEST*. I'M THE MAYOR. I'LL DO WHATEVER HAS TO BE--

SSSSSH.

SSSSSH.

FOR ONCE... PLEASE... LISTEN TO ME.

DON'T BE MAD, JONAH...

DON'T BLAME ANYONE FOR THIS... SPIDER-SLAYERS... SPIDER-MAN.

DON'T EVEN BLAME *SMYTHE*.

DON'T WASTE ANY *MORE* OF YOUR LIFE ON *HATE*...

I LOVE...

JONAH...

I'M SO...

I'M NOT GOING TO SAY IT.

WHAT?

"THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, SPIDER-MAN."

BECAUSE I KNOW.

THIS IS MY FAULT.

MY FAULT.

ALL MINE.

End.

"FAIR WARNING, CORPORAL. THERE IS STILL TIME TO PULL OUT."

THOMPSON EUGENE F. 987-08-1983 TYPE A CATHOLIC

NO, SIR. I AM READY TO SERVE.

UNDERSTOOD. I TRUST MACKENZIE HERE HAS INFORMED YOU THIS IS A DANGEROUS PROCEDURE--

--AND WILL MOST LIKELY CAUSE ITS FAIR SHARE OF PAIN AND DISCOMFORT.

MMMYEAH. ON A SCALE OF ONE TO TEN? THIS IS...

"OH, DEAR GOD! WHY ME? WHY ME?!"

CUTE, DOC. BUT THE FACT IS, I *HAVE* BEEN THINKING THAT. OUT OF ALL THE GRUNTS YOU COULD'VE GOTTEN, GENERAL DODGE...

...WHY ME? WITH MY DISABILITY--

TRUST ME. I CAN LOOK PAST THAT.

LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I *DO* SEE. CORPORAL EUGENE "*FLASH*" THOMPSON, A MAN WHO LITERALLY RISKED LIFE AND LIMB TO SAVE EVERY MAN IN HIS UNIT.

A GOOD SOLDIER. A TRUE PATRIOT. AND MOST OF ALL...

"...MY *DOG* LIKES YOU. AND SAMSON IS A VERY GOOD JUDGE OF CHARACTER."

ALL SYSTEMS CHECK. WE'RE READY TO INITIATE *PROJECT REBIRTH 2.0.*

DO WE *HAVE* TO CALL IT THAT? NO OFFENSE TO STEVE ROGERS, BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MORE OF A SPIDEY-GUY THAN A CAP-GUY.

NOW *THAT*, FLASH...

REBIRTH

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...THAT *IS* ONE OF THE REASONS WE CHOSE YOU.

READY? HERE WE GO...

UUUU

GYEAH

"FIGHT IT, SOLDIER!

"MACKENZIE SAYS WE'VE PUMPED YOU FULL OF ALL THE CHEMICALS YOU NEED TO CONTROL THIS ALIEN...

"...BUT YOU AND ME, WE KNOW DIFFERENT, THOMPSON.

"YOU ARE ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST!

"AND THAT IS *ALL* YOU NEED--TO BEND THIS THING TO *YOUR WILL!*"

LEGS. I *KNEW* THIS WOULD HAPPEN... *IF* IT WORKED, BUT...

...I MADE IT GROW ME LEGS.

YES!

I CAN STAND AGAIN. I CAN *WALK!*

HELL, SON. IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN WALK UP *WALLS.*

IN FACT, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN *REALLY* DO.

WALL-CRAWLING. CHECK.

"WEB-SHOOTING.

"ENHANCED STRENGTH.

"SHAPE-SHIFTING BASED ATTACKS.

"INCREASED SPEED AND AGILITY."

AMAZING! IT'S EVERYTHING I EVER DREAMED IT WOULD BE...

CHECK IT OUT-- I'M *SPIDER-MAN!*

NO. YOU'RE *VENOM.*

WHA...?!

WHY CAN'T I BE SPIDER-MAN? THERE'RE TWO HULKS, TWO CAPS, WHY CAN'T THERE BE TWO--

WE'RE SENDING YOU AFTER TERRORISTS. WE'VE DONE PSYCHE PROFILES. AND TERRORIST AREN'T AFRAID OF SPIDER-MAN.

THEY KNOW HE DOESN'T KILL. VENOM, HOWEVER, WILL KILL YA, EAT YA, AND COME BACK FOR SECONDS.

WE'LL DENY IT, OF COURSE, BUT IT'LL GET OUT-- TO THE RIGHT CIRCLES. AND WHEN IT DOES, THAT'S A NICE REP TO HAVE.

SPEAKING OF THE KILLING...LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OF YOUR NEW ORDNANCE...

THIS IS THE *MULTI-GUN*. SPECIALLY KEYED TO YOUR DNA. IT COST A LOT. DON'T LOSE IT.

KINDA CLUMSY FOR A STANDARD AUTOMATIC.

SHKK

OH!

IT'S ALSO A HIGH-POWERED SNIPER RIFLE.

IT'S A FIREARM FOR EVERY OCCASION.

BUT NEVER FORGET, THAT SUIT--

--THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE, IS YOUR GREATEST WEAPON.

FLORP

BUT THESE WILL GIVE YOU A FEW MORE TRICKS UP YOUR SLEEVE.

WHAT ARE THEY?

KNOCKOUT DRUGS. TRUTH SERUM. AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS OF MY OWN DESIGN.

ALONG WITH VARIOUS KNIVES AND CUTTING TOOLS...

...THE SUIT CAN ALSO FASHION A SYRINGE AS A DELIVERY SYSTEM.

DANG, MACKENZIE. YOU GOT ME HOOKED UP WITH EVERYTHING THIS SIDE OF A SPIDER-SENSE.

YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING BETTER THAN THAT, THOMPSON. YOU'VE GOT *ME*.

UM... HULLO?

CAPTAIN KATHERINE GLOVER, SPECIAL FORCES.

I'LL BE OVERSEEING ALL *VENOM* MISSIONS, COORDINATING WITH OPS, PROVIDING BACKUP IN THE FIELD, AND...

...THANKS TO THE LISTENING DEVICE IMPLANTED DURING YOUR DRUG TREATMENTS, I'LL BE THE VOICE ON HIGH IN YOUR HEAD.

YOU SURE 'BOUT THAT, BABE?

'CAUSE THE MINUTE YOU WALKED IN, YOU WERE THE VOICE IN MY HEART.

ACCORDING TO YOUR FILE, THAT SPOT'S FILLED BY ONE ELIZABETH *"BETTY"* BRANT.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...

...LET ME BE PERFECTLY CLEAR.

WAP

HEY! WHERE DO YOU GET OFF--

I'M NOT BABYSITTING YOU, THOMPSON. I'M MONITORING THE ALIEN. *THAT'S* MY JOB.

THE FIRST SIGN *IT'S* IN CONTROL, I PUSH THIS KILL-SWITCH, FRY IT, AND LEAVE YOU HANGING IN THE WIND.

LITERALLY WITHOUT A LEG TO STAND ON. SO WHEN I SAY JUMP, YOU DON'T SAY *"HOW HIGH?"*...

"...YOU SHUT THE HELL UP AND *JUMP!*"

DOZEN MEN. NON-LETHAL FORCE. DONE. WHAT ELSE YOU GOT?

'CAUSE I COULD DO THIS ALL DAY, CAPTAIN.

THAT'LL DO. FOR NOW.

WE'RE COMING UP ON THE 48-HOUR WINDOW.

HOW ARE HIS LEVELS?

THEY'RE GOOD, AARON. HOLDING.

BUT HE'S GETTING TESTY. YOU CAN HEAR IT.

CORPORAL, YOU CAN STAND DOWN. COME INSIDE. WE'RE DONE FOR THE DAY.

ALL RIGHT, COACH. BUT I'M TELLING YOU I'M FRESH AS A DAISY. YOU CAN KEEP ME IN FOR ANOTHER--

GRRR

HEY, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO THE MUTT?

MORE LIKE WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, FLASH. YOU'VE READ THE FILES. THE LONGER THAT SUIT STAYS ON, THE GREATER THE CHANCE OF *PERMANENT* BONDING.

AFTER TODAY, YOU'VE GOT TWENTY MISSIONS TOPS. THEN YOUR TOUR AS *VENOM* IS *OVER.* AND IT'S ON TO THE NEXT JARHEAD--

I KNOW!

AND YOU'RE GOOD WITH THAT?

YEAH! OKAY?! JUST GET THIS THING OFF ME. *DO IT!*

AWROOO!

WRRR!

ZZEEEEE

INITIATING FULL SONIC PURGE.

GENERAL DODGE, SORRY FOR THAT OUTBURST BACK THERE. WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

AND THANK YOU, SIR. NOT FOR THE WALKING, OR THE CHANCE TO BE--WELL--LIKE MY GREATEST HERO...

...THANK YOU FOR THE CHANCE TO SERVE MY COUNTRY. I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.

I KNOW YOU WON'T, SON.

C'MON, LET'S GET YOU HOME. UNLESS YOU'D LIKE TO HANG OUT IN D.C. SOME MORE...

...Y'KNOW THERE'S THIS REALLY NEAT SCIENCE EXHIBIT AT THE SMITHSONIAN AND I WAS THINKING WE COULD--

HEH. Y'KNOW, MACKENZIE, YOU REMIND ME OF THIS GUY I KNOW...AND *NOT* IN A GOOD WAY.

ALL RIGHT, HE'S GONE. OUT WITH IT, KAT. I CAN HEAR YOU GRINDING YOUR TEETH FROM HERE.

WHAT IS IT?

GENERAL...YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HIM, HAVE YOU, BRAD?

THAT HE'S THE *SECOND* SERVICEMAN TO GO THROUGH THIS PROCESS.

HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT CAL HENRIKSEN.

HOW THE FIRST TIME I USED THIS, I NUKED HIS BRAIN. THAT'S NOT RIGHT, SIR.

THIS CONVERSATION IS OVER, CAPTAIN. THOMPSON. WILL. BE. FINE.

BUT, SIR--

THAT IS WHY I PICKED HIM. BECAUSE HE IS A FIRST CLASS SOLDIER, A TRUE PATRIOT...

AND HE IS WILLING TO MAKE ANY SACRIFICE.

The End

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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Hey Spidey-fans! New Editor In Chief Axel Alonso has made a lot of changes in his first few days in the chair. And as a result, I've spent a lot more time cleaning his various cars this week. So I'm just going to get right down to your letters.

Before I do, though, let me remind you that next week's issue is numbered 654.1. We're doing several of these POINT ONE issues throughout the line and they're a great place to jump on if you haven't been following a book regularly.

So, next week in Spidey you get a full-length story featuring the all-new Venom that debuts right here in this issue's backup story. It's by Dan and Humberto and it is flat-out gorgeous (in spite of the poor, barely functional editing).

Also from my neck of the woods is the recent *Invincible Iron Man #500.1* by Matt Fraction and Salvador Larroca. It's an absolutely heartbreaking look at the biggest, ongoing struggle in Tony Stark's life. And it'll help get you ready for Spidey's guest appearance in Iron Man starting next month.

Both issues also feature a sneak peek at the coming year for both characters – a year which promises to make you mad at us already – even though it's only February! You may think you know where the Marvel U. is headed, but you're not even close.

Anyway, I have to go wax Axel's new diamond and dodo bird shoes, so let's have you take over. LETTER PAGE GO NOW!!!

Dear Spidey creators,

You have done it. You have fixed *Amazing Spider-Man* with BIG TIME. You have made Spidey as fun and as cool as he is in the Avengers titles.

You have beefed up the villains and haven't left Spidey behind the times (though I wish you would bring back the organic webs). You have made *Amazing* a great looking book with a wonderful start on his new stories. Keep up the good work. I hope your current team of writer and artist stay on *Amazing Spider-Man* for years.

Kevin Skaggs
Nappanee Indiana

Dear Spider-Makers,

I just want to say how excited I am for this *Big Time* story! I am a longtime Spider-Fan who hasn't been reading comics for some time. This storyline is exactly what I needed to get me back into the goings-on of my favorite super hero!

Not only is his Spider life interesting what with his new armor and changes in powers, but his life as Peter Parker is reaching a turning point with his new job and girlfriend! There is a real progression here and that is what I loved about all the classic Spider-Man stories.

So thank you for making a comic that truly lives up to its Amazing title! (oh and nice nod to the Spider-Man Broadway show in issue 650! I'm seeing the show in January.)

What a great time to be a Spider-Fan!

"Magic" Mike Robichaud
Via e-mail

Thanks, Mike. It's always great to have a lapsed reader back. Sounds like this month's POINT ONE issues will be perfect for you to sort of test the waters on some new books and catch up with old friends..

Hope you liked the Spidey Broadway show, too. It sounds like it's been a rough ride getting it ready, but I'm excited to see it myself once it officially opens in February. I'm confident it'll be memorable and help wash away the memories of the doomed Captain America musical from the '80s.

And if it's a success, can the Storm musical Ororoklahoma! be far behind?!

ITEM!

The Spidey office congratulates the aptly named Fred Love of Washington D.C. for his recent marriage to this woman who allowed him to decorate the rehearsal dinner with pictures of an old Spidey wedding issue. Take a look.

On behalf of all of us here at Marvel... our condolences to the bride.

Dear Steve and Ellie,

I was barely hanging in there with *Amazing Spider-Man* since the appalling "One More Day," and then you decided to let Dan Slott kill off the Roderick Kingsley/Hobgoblin.

Wow! That was some awesome storytelling. You could have taken an established villain and made him great again. New readers wouldn't know the difference and old readers would be thrilled to see him back. But no, of course not.

Instead, it has to have a new and "hip" spin. Well that was stunning, taking a nobody character who had a comic for a handful of issues that no one cared about (except the McDaniel art) and turned him into someone I still don't, and won't, care about.

All at the expense of one of my all-time favorite villains.

Well that's it. After 28 years of reading Spidey stories...I'm out.

Ben Mulder
Via e-mail

Hey Spider-Team,

Hobgoblin...sweet. Wings? Not sure yet. One of my first issues of Spidey was *Amazing* #245, dealing with identity of the Hobgoblin, and this issue filled a longtime fan with both nostalgia and new excitement! Hobgoblin has always been a favorite – I even remember *WEB OF SPIDER-MAN* #38 (where Peter was drunk, by the way – the infamous *Amazing* #601 incident was not his first debacle, people, so get over it).

The plot and pace are perfect so far and I laughed aloud at the costume-changing hijinks with Carlie, May, and now the Horizon staff.

Speaking of the latter, the Horizon gig is a nice new spin on Peter's scholarly pursuits. I fondly remember Pete's juggling of (and eventually giving up) college, and that interaction with young intellectuals was an ingredient I didn't realize was missing that you've refreshed with new direction. You even came up with a plausible reason for a new suit, so I'll relax about that and enjoy.

One disagreement, however, with the letter from Mr. Wilson in #650, who said: "(Peter's) a genius. We know that... so why did (Peter) spend the last two years acting like a slacker/loser?" Although "Big Time" already has me enjoying the book even more, I'd like to defend the last two years of great work on the book.

My wife, like Peter, is brilliant in ways that astound me. However, she can't multi-task to save her life; she's genius when focused on a single thing without distraction. There aren't simply "smart" people and "dumb" people out there, life is more complicated than that, and Peter is a great (tragic?) example.

Also, there's a BIG difference between knowledge and wisdom, and while Peter is brilliant with test tubes, his discernment (with ladies, relationships, job politics, etc.) can be remedial. That, by the way, is often a trait that accompanies genius.

My primary gifts are writing and speaking, but the administrative aspects of my current gig don't allow me to stretch those muscles much. We're all hoping opportunity comes knocking like it has for Peter has with the "Big Time", so bring it on! My only quibble: is Felicia REALLY going to lay off the flirtation just because Spider has a girlfriend? Please...

James Harleman
Seattle, WA

That's a perfect place to leave it, James. Thanks for your great and well-thought out letter. Most of your thoughts match this editor's take on Pete...but you phrased them much better than I ever could.

Outta room, folks. We'll be back in 7 days for 654.1 picking up right where we left off!

And in ASM #655...the Spidey artist you demanded is back as Marcos Martin makes his BIG TIME debut. After the death of Marla Jameson (coupled with the death of one of his close friends in the Fantastic Four), Pete is brought to one of the lowest points ever.

Viva Carlini!

Simperin Steve
1/12/11

PS: One more thing. When you write in, please make sure to let us know what town, state and/or country you're from!

NEXT!

POINT ONE!

Send e-mail to
SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM
(please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)